

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 604

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Patty Starnes on her selection as the Teacher of the Year at Alpha Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Patty Starnes is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Starnes was recently selected as the Teacher of the Year for Alpha Elementary School in the Hamblen County School District, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University, Patty Starnes holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Health, Physical Education, and Elementary Education and has completed additional coursework at both Lincoln Memorial University and the University of LaVerne; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Starnes is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, a twenty-year veteran of the Tennessee Public Education System, Ms. Starnes has served with acumen and alacrity as a third grade teacher at Alpha Elementary School since 2006, having previously taught at Lincoln Middle School; and

WHEREAS, during her estimable tenure, Patty Starnes has rendered sterling service as a Grade Level team leader, "BUGS" (Bringing Up the Grades) representative, Data Team grade level representative, School Improvement representative, and new teacher mentor; and

WHEREAS, a highly trained professional in the field of education, Ms. Starnes has completed training in the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), Bullies2Buddies Anti-Bullying Program, Take 10! Getting Kids Active in the Classroom, and Crisis Prevent Institution; and

WHEREAS, her professional memberships include both the National and Tennessee Associations of Health, PE, and Recreation and Dance, and she was also a valued member of ARC and a former Huddle Leader for Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and

WHEREAS, this innovative and inspiring leader in education shared her vast knowledge and sage insights at the most recent East Tennessee Title I Conference, expertly delivering a message on “You Are More Than a Number”; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to community and public service, Patty Starnes endeavored to serve her fellow citizens through volunteer work with the Beta Club, Caps for Kids with Cancer Drive, and Fit Feet for Special Olympians; she has also played an integral role in the Alpha Elementary School recycling program, which won the UT Recycling East Tennessee Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Starnes is a devout member of her church, where she faithfully serves as the eighth grade girls Sunday School teacher and graciously donates her time to a variety of ministries, including Girls in Action, Music Makers, Awana, and Vacation Bible School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Starnes truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Patty Starnes truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Patty Starnes on being chosen as the Teacher of the Year at Alpha Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.